

Department of Permits and Development Management
111 West Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
Baltimore County, Maryland

In the Matter of
Raymond G. Cooke
Respondent

Civil Citation No. 55121
1903 Barry Road

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW
FINAL ORDER OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICER

This matter came before the Code Enforcement Hearing Officer for the Department of Permits and Development Management on March 4, 2009, for a hearing on a citation for violations under the Baltimore County Code (BCC) section 13-7-112; 13-7-115; 35-5-302 (a)(3) failure to eliminate nuisance rat activity from property; failure to remove/eliminate rat holes from property on residential property known as 1903 Barry Road, 21222.

On February 12, 2009, pursuant to §3-6-205, Baltimore County Code, Code Enforcement Officer, issued a code enforcement citation. The citation was sent to the Respondent by 1st class mail to the last known address listed in the Maryland State Tax Assessment files.

The citation proposed a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars).

The following persons appeared for the Hearing and testified: the Respondent, Raymond G. Cooke Jr., and Jerry Chen, Baltimore County Code Enforcement Officer.

After proper consideration of all the testimony and evidence presented, the Hearing Officer finds:

A. A Correction Notice was issued to Respondent on January 13, 2009 for severe rat infestation. Photographs in the file show numerous rat holes and trails in the rear yard. Re-inspection on February 5, 2009 showed some improvement, including new metal trash cans with lids and rat traps, but continued presence of multiple rat holes and active infestation.

B. Mr. Cooke testified that he has hired professional exterminators and has a service contract that includes revisits by the technician every three months.

IT IS ORDERED by the Code Enforcement Hearing Officer that the civil penalty is RESCINDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County re-inspect the property periodically until all violations have been corrected including elimination of rat holes and rat harborage.

ORDERED this 13th day of March 2009.

Signed: ORIGINAL SIGNED
Margaret Z. Ferguson
Baltimore County Hearing Officer

NOTICE TO VIOLATOR: The violator is advised that (1) pursuant to §3-6-206(g)(2) of the Baltimore County Code, the Violator may make written application to the Director of the Department of Permits & Development Management within 10 days to modify or amend this order and (2) pursuant to §3-6-301(a), Baltimore County Code, the Violator may appeal this order to the Baltimore County Board of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from the date of this order. Any such appeal requires the filing of a petition setting forth the grounds for appeal, payment of a filing fee of \$150 and the posting of security to satisfy the penalty assessed.